

# BS in Philosophy

## Degree Program Description

Philosophy is the search for reasoned answers to certain fundamental questions about the nature of the universe and the place of humans in it, questions that science seems unable to answer. To do philosophy is to construct and evaluate the best arguments for and against the various possible answers to these questions. The Bachelor of Science emphasizes the formal aspects of philosophy and its many connections with the sciences; it may be a better choice for those wishing to double (or dual) major in philosophy and a science. The practical value of studying philosophy lies in the intellectual training it provides. Successful study of philosophy requires, and helps develop, several valuable intellectual abilities: to grasp the big picture as well as fine details; to think, speak, and write about abstract conceptual questions; to identify the key assumptions of arguments; to make relevant distinctions; and to assess the pros and cons of proposed solutions. These abilities are highly prized in a wide variety of careers, and philosophy majors go on to successful careers in many fields, including law, medicine, and business.

## Major Program Requirements

Undergraduates pursuing a BS degree in philosophy must meet all the non-philosophy requirements for a BS degree in the College of Arts and Science, including university general education (<http://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegreerequirements/generaleducationrequirements/>) requirements and graduation requirements (<http://catalog.missouri.edu/academicdegreerequirements/universityrequirements/>). In place of the foreign language requirement, they may take 12 hours of coursework at the 2000-level or higher in Mathematics, Statistics, Physical or Biological Sciences, Psychology, or Economics. In addition, they are recommended, but not required, to pursue a minor in another field. Finally, they must earn 42 credits in philosophy, with a grade of "C-" or above in every course, distributed as follows:

<b>Required Courses</b>	<b>9</b>
PHIL 2700 Elementary Logic	
PHIL 3000 Ancient Western Philosophy	
PHIL 3200 Modern Philosophy	
<b>3000-Level/4000-Level Requirement</b>	<b>9</b>
Any three semester-based courses at the 3000-level or 4000-level not already taken to meet other major requirements, except for 4998 and 4999.	
<b>Further BS Requirement</b>	<b>12</b>
Any four semester-based courses from the following list:	
PHIL 2600 Rational Decisions	
PHIL 2820 Minds, Brains, and Machines	
PHIL 2850 Minds and Morals: An Introduction to Moral Psychology	
PHIL 4100 Philosophy of Language	
PHIL 4110 Advanced Logic	
PHIL 4120 Selected Topics in Logic	
PHIL 4130 Probability and Induction	
PHIL 4150 Formal Semantics	
PHIL 4200 Metaphysics	
PHIL 4210 Philosophy of Mind	
PHIL 4400 Philosophy of Science	

PHIL 4420 Philosophy of Biology	
<b>Capstone Requirement</b>	<b>3</b>
Any semester-based course at the 4000-level not already taken to meet other major requirements, except for 4998 and 4999.	
<b>Philosophy Electives</b>	<b>9</b>
Nine philosophy credits in any courses not already taken to meet other major requirements, except for 4998 and 4999; but no more than three 1000-level philosophy courses may be used as philosophy electives.	
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>42</b>

## Semester Plan

Below is a sample plan of study, semester by semester. A student's actual plan may vary, depending on his or her course choices and whether options are available.

First Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
PHIL 1000, 1100, or 1200		3 Natural science	3
ENGLSH 1000		3 Foreign language or general elective	5-6
Behavioral or Social Science		3 Philosophy elective	3
Foreign Language or general elective		5-6 Math and Quantitative Reasoning course	3
<b>14-15</b>			<b>14-15</b>
Second Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
Behavioral or Social Science		3 Philosophy elective	3
Natural Science		3 Humanities/Fine Arts course (writing intensive)	3
PHIL 2700		3 Behavioral or social Science	3
Foreign Language or general elective		3 Natural science	3
Writing Intensive 1000+		3 Diversity Intensive Course	3
<b>15</b>			<b>15</b>
Third Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
PHIL 3000		3 PHIL 3200	3
Philosophy course, 3000- or 4000-level		3 Humanities/Fine Arts course	3
Natural science with lab		4-5 Foreign language or general elective	3
General electives		6 Philosophy course, 3000- or 4000-level	3
		Philosophy course, 3000- or 4000-level	3
<b>16-17</b>			<b>15</b>
Fourth Year			
Fall	CR	Spring	CR
Philosophy course for BS		3 Philosophy course for BS	3
Philosophy course for BS		3 Philosophy course, 4000-level	3
Philosophy course for BS		3 Humanities/Fine Arts course	3
General elective		3 General elective	3
General elective		3 General elective	3
<b>15</b>			<b>15</b>
<b>Total Credits: 119-122</b>			